

13

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Iran's Prosecutor Nurtures Terrorism

Iran's chief prosecutor, Musavi Khoiniha, is one of three Iranian officials who bear the ultimate responsibility for the kidnappings and murders of Americans around the world over the last few years. He is outranked only by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his designated successor, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, in Tehran's hierarchy of terror and subversion.

Khoiniha was entrusted with the leadership of Khomeini's theological seminary in the holy city of Qom, which has churned out hundreds of zealots/terrorists in recent years. Khoiniha himself had attended the school years earlier, and was Khomeini's favorite student.

Not only Iranians enroll at the Qom seminary. Students from other Middle Eastern and African countries also come for concentrated indoctrination in Moslem fundamentalism. Before they return home to foment rebellion or travel elsewhere to conduct terrorist actions, the young revolutionaries are given an intensive one-week course in weapons and explosives at the Lavizan military camp in northern Iran, and equipped with new identities.

Among the alumni of Iranian terrorist training were the gunmen and grenade throwers who recently staged attacks at the Rome and Vienna airports, according to intelligence sources.

According to a highly sensitive U.S. intelligence report, Khoiniha was for more than a decade an "agent of influence" employed by the KGB. The information came from an Iranian communist leader who recently defected to the West. The defector had been Khoiniha's KGB paymaster.

The two men first met in Leipzig, East Germany,

in 1961, shortly after Khoiniha had completed studies at Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow. They saw each other frequently between 1965 and 1975. Khoiniha, who had joined Khomeini's exiled followers in Iraq, shuttled between Baghdad and Leipzig to collect his own salary and funds for Khomeini's underground fight against the shah.

Khoiniha has been tapped regularly by Khomeini for special subversive missions over the years. In 1982, he was appointed leader of more than 100,000 Iranian Shiites making the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Less than two weeks after he arrived, however, the Saudis expelled him when he was caught red-handed trying to recruit local fundamentalists for an uprising against the Saudi government.

In 1983, Khoiniha was back in Mecca, addressing some 300 Moslem clerics from Asian and African countries, urging them to overthrow the "godless regimes" at home in favor of an Islamic state.

In November 1983, Khoiniha popped up in Britain, traveling under an assumed name with a Syrian passport. He was supposed to organize Moslem students and workers and open secret accounts in offshore banks on the channel island of Jersey, but he fled after being discovered by antiterrorist authorities.

A month later, he was seen in East Berlin, where he is believed to have helped organize the bombings of France's super-train, La Tres Grande Vitesse, and the Marseille passenger station. His suspected collaborator in these enterprises was the notorious Ilyich Ramirez Sanchez, better known as Carlos the Jackal, who later claimed credit for the bombings.